

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/855,652
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q64500

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 9-46 have been examined on their merits.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 9-28.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 41-45 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this amendment claims 41-44 are rewritten into independent form. Claim 45 depends from allowable claim 44 and therefore is also now in condition for allowance.

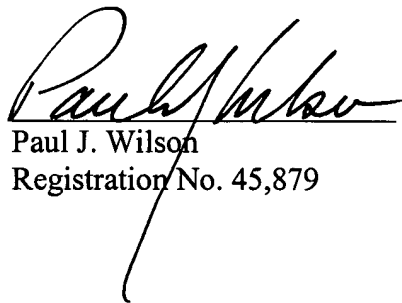
Claims 29, 31, 33-40 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. Claims 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in order to obtain early allowance of the subject application and to advance prosecution of the instant application, claims 29-40 and 46 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the refiling of the subject matter in a subsequent application.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9-28 and 41-45 should be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. If for any reason the application is found other than to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Washington, D.C. telephone number (202) 293-7060 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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